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The Octofoil

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## The Octofoil, November/December 1967

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# THE OCTOFOIL

VOLUME XXIII  
NUMBER 2

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Association Dues: \$4.00 per year—\$5.50  
will be earmarked to pay for The Octofoil

Weehawken, N. J. 07087—412 Gregory Ave.

Nov.-Dec., 1967

## Detroit Unveils Plans for 1968 Reunion.

### Board of Governors Hears Bill Meadows' Report

Bill Meadows represented the Detroit Chapter at the November Board meeting, and he gave a progress report on the plans for the 1968 reunion. Bill reported that for the past three months the Detroit gang has been hard at work preparing for the coming event. The Chapter's hard work has resulted in a program which is certain to provide an enjoyable time for everyone attending the reunion.

The Reunion will be held on July 18th, 19th, and 20th. The Statler-Hilton Detroit, one of Detroit's finest hotels, will be headquarters for the Reunion. The Reunion Committee has arranged with the hotel management for very attractive room rates. Singles will be \$10.00, Doubles \$15.00, and Twins \$17.00. These rates will prevail for three days preceding the reunion and for three days after the reunion, as an extra bonus the rates include free parking, a service charge of fifty cents will be assessed for moving cars into and out of the garage. All rooms are outside, air-conditioned, and equipped with T.V. sets. The Statler-Hilton is located in downtown Detroit and is in close proximity to many fine restaurants, cafeterias, and dining rooms where good food is obtainable for a very modest price.

Bill informed the Board that plans for the Banquet are in the hands of Jim Dawson. Jim is working on an arrangement whereby set-ups will be available at the table for a reasonable price. Bill also reported

on the activities of John Bonkowski and Bruce Moir. John is arranging for the Memorial Service and he has already secured the site for the services and has arranged for the guest speakers. Bruce is looking over Detroit's many fine golf courses and will soon select one of them as the site for the Ninth Infantry Division Golf Tournament.

An important adjunct to the Reunion is the Journal; Elmer Wagner is serving as Chairman of that committee. Elmer has just announced the rates for ads in the Journal. They are as follows: Full Page \$25.00, Half Page \$15.00, Quarter Page \$10.00, Boosters \$1.00. This year Elmer has come up with something new in the way of ads, an eighth of a page for \$5.00. This type of an ad is suitable for anyone who wants to list his name with a greeting or with his unit affiliation or home address. Anyone wishing to place an ad in the Journal should contact Elmer Wagner, Route 4, Bay City, Michigan 48706.

In conclusion Bill said that the Detroit Chapter would continue to work diligently on preparations for the Reunion and that between now and July they would come up with many innovations that will please the members attending the Reunion. He also promised to keep the Octofoil informed on developments pertaining to the Reunion. It looks as if the 68 Reunion will be a swinging affair so we advise you to make your reservations early.

★★★

### Gen. Craig and Gen. Smythe Write to Tippie Plunkett

Mrs. Paul Plunkett continues to receive letters of condolence from friends of Paul. Only recently Major General Louis A. Craig learned of Paul's death and he sent Tippy the following letter:

Dear Mrs. Plunkett:

This is a very tardy letter to you, for I have only now learned of the passing of Paul Plunkett.

I have known Paul personally by his presence at the meetings of the Association, but even more consciously in the awareness of his self-dedication to the Association in the production of the Octofoil. It would be difficult to place an adequate evaluation on his contribution to the memory of a great Division and on his constant reflection of it in the pages of the paper, and this of course was so effective because of his warm association with its members, and because of his understanding of the sentiments of his friends.

Our loss has been great indeed but it fails to compare with your own.

With my kindest regards to you - and with deep sympathy,

Sincerely,  
Louis A. Craig

Part of General Smythe's letter to Tippie Plunkett reads as follows:

A testimonial for Paul from my viewpoint of his efforts. The success of the Ninth Infantry Division Association has been due solely to the efforts of Paul Plunkett with the Association paper "The Octofoil." He kept the spirit of the members alive between reunions with his efforts in the Octofoil - it was his life. No other association can come near to keeping all of its members completely happy. Through his dedicated efforts, his work was well done as a truly responsible editor.

### Illinois Chapter Sends Condolences

The Illinois Chapter is in great sorrow to hear of Paul Plunkett's death and our deepest sympathy to Tippie. The Ninth has not only lost a very good member but also a friend of everybody. Paul was a devoted Ninth Division Man and he will be missed.



The Statler-Hilton, Headquarters for '68

### Gen. Randle Writes

Dear Dan and Walter:

Congratulations on the new Octofoil. You did an excellent job and I am sure every member of the Association has breathed a sigh of relief and is delighted that the Octofoil is going to carry on and is in such capable hands.

And many thanks for such a good story about the 2nd edition of Safi Adventure. It spurred many who had not obtained a copy of the 1st edition to write for a copy of the new 2nd edition.

In fact the 2nd edition is a better book than the 1st. I have done some revising, eliminated most (but not all) of the typographical errors, and it has 4 pages of photos, which the 1st did not have.

Can you give me the address of Rast Holt? He was in command of one of the 15th Engineer platoons at Safi. I had an address, 4108 Cahaba Ad., Birmingham, Alabama, but my letter was returned marked not at that address.

Mrs. Randle joins me in the wish that this be the best Christmas season you and your wives ever had.

With warmest regards,  
Edwin H. Randle

Editor's Note: The secretary's office could not supply the General with the address of Rast Holt. Perhaps one of our members will be able to assist the General.

★★★



### Boston Chapter Celebrates After Successful Reunion

The Annual Reunion provides fun and gaiety for everyone - everyone that is except the committee. These harried souls are so busy taking care of the visiting firemen that they have no time to enjoy the festivities. This year the members of the Boston Chapter knocked themselves out providing a good time for the members who attended the Reunion. In fact they worked so hard that it took almost two months before they recovered enough strength to do a little celebrating themselves.

On October 14, 1967, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Cusack played host to the Boston Reunion Committee. Pete has a beautiful playroom in his home and he used it to provide a good time for the members of the committee. Liquid refreshments were served and after the Boston chowhounds whetted their appetites on a few Johnny Walkers they demolished a fine buffet set out by Mrs. Cusack. This post-reunion celebration was attended by Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Boyle, Connie Matulis, Franny Maher, Fred D'Amore, Sid Levison, Joe McKensie, Ed McGrath, Larry McLaughlin, Bill Shea, and John Edmonds.

GI LOAN DEADLINE FOR WORLD WAR II VETERANS has been extended until July 25, 1970 for those veterans and widows whose eligibility ran out on July 25, 1967, the former deadline. Check with your local State Veteran Counselor to determine your eligibility.

### Remember the Dates

Remember the dates for the 1968 Reunion - July 18, 19, 20.

### A Message from Your New Editors

EDITOR'S NOTE - At their November meeting, the Board of Governors appointed Dan Quinn and Walter O'Keefe Co-Editors of the Octofoil.

☆☆☆

As we embark upon this new undertaking, we are deeply aware of the responsibilities that are part and parcel of the Editor's job. For many years Paul Plunkett served with distinction as Editor of the Octofoil. During his tenure he set high standards that will be difficult to duplicate. Paul enjoyed a rapport with the members of the Association that was unique and personal. It will be impossible to imitate his style. However, Paul has pointed out the way and has given us a goal to strive for. We shall try to do our best to live up to the standards that he has set.

Editors can publish a paper but they can't make news; only the membership can do that. Therefore, we hope that the members of the Association will co-operate with us and continue to send in the letters and notes that play such a vital part in making the Octofoil the voice of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. We want you to feel that the Octofoil is your paper and that you are a member of the staff. Any news that pertains to the activities of the Division or its members will be welcome.

As this hectic year draws to a close, we want to extend the Season's greetings to all the members and their families. It is our sincere hope that the coming year will bless all of you with good health, prosperity, and good fortune.

## THE OCTOFOIL

Forms 3579 should be sent to 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N. J.  
OCTOFOIL ASSOCIATE EDITORS Walter O'Keeffe & Daniel Quinn

## NATIONAL OFFICERS

PAUL KELLER, President, 139 Pinewood Drive, Columbus, Ohio  
FRANCIS MAHER, 1st Vice President, 14 Davenport St., Worcester, Mass.  
FRANK OZART, 2nd Vice President, 2241 S. Marshall Blvd., Chicago, Ill.  
WILLIAM MEADOWS, 3rd Vice President, 19367 Dale, Detroit, Michigan  
HARRISON DAYSH, Judge Advocate, 4303 Carriage Court,  
Rock Creek Highlands, Kensington, Md.  
DANIEL QUINN, Secretary, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N. J. (201-866-8195)  
THOMAS BOYLE, Treasurer, 39 Hall Ave., Somerville, Mass. 02144

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1970-  
Charles Koskie, Schiller Park, Ill.  
Paul Keller, Columbus, Ohio  
Anthony Varone, Kings Park, L.I., N. Y.  
Robert Rumenapp, 28017 Hughes St.,  
St. Clair Shores, Mich.  
Brig. Gen. Edwin Randle (Ret.) 503  
Althea Rd., Clearwater, Fla.  
1969-  
John Boden, Box 58, Chester, Pa.  
Herbert Olsen, Randolph, Mass.  
Ralph Witzkin, Hillside, N. J.  
Charles Tingley, Silver Springs, Md.  
Wm. Andrews, Comstock Park, Mich.

The official publication of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Single copy price is 25 cents per issue or by mail \$1.50 per year payable in advance when dues are paid. Dues are \$4.00 per year with \$1.50 of the \$4.00 earmarked for six issues of The Octofoil. Members should notify the National Secretary, Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N. J., of any change in address.

Published six times yearly: July-August, September-October, November-December, January-February, March-April, May-June and for the members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. News items, feature stories, photographs and art material from members will be appreciated. Every effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condition.

An extract from the certificate of incorporation of the 9th Infantry Division Association reads: "This Association is formed by the officers and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively of means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division."

Copy must be received on or before the 10th of each month to guarantee publication on the 20th. Photographs must be received on or before the 5th day of publication month.

Second-Class Postage paid at Union City, N. J. Authorized as of October 1, 1967.

VOLUME XXIII

Nov.-Dec.

NUMBER 2

## 86th Meeting Of the Board Of Governors

The 86th meeting of the National Board of Governors was called to order at 5:15 p.m., November 4, 1967 at the Holiday Inn Motel, Worcester, Mass., attended by Messrs: Paul Keller, Herbert Olsen, Peter Cusack, Anthony Varone, John Rizzo, Ralph Witzken and Richard Pestel. Also attending Thomas Boyle, treasurer; William Meadows, 3rd Vice-President; Francis Maher, 1st Vice-President, the 1967 Reunion Chairman Ronnie Murphy, Edward McGrath, and past Presidents, Walter O'Keeffe, Emil Langer and John Bonkowski, Judge Advocate Harrison Daysh.

The secretary Daniel Quinn read the minutes of the 85th meeting. After a motion duly made by Anthony Varone and seconded by Herbert Olsen it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes as read and place same on file.

Thomas Boyle the treasurer gave a quarterly report. After a motion duly made by Herbert Olsen and seconded by Anthony Varone it was voted to: Accept the treasurer's report. President Paul Keller thanked Thomas Boyle for his report.

The President then called upon Ronnie Murphy for a final report on the 1967 Reunion - Boston, Mass. Ronnie spoke of the great cooperation he as Chairman received from the New England members who served on the various committees. He also thanked two Board members, John Rizzo and Ralph Witzken for their cooperation. In conclusion he presented the President with a check for \$521.71, the profits realized from the reunion. President Keller thanked Ron Murphy for his report and for a wonderful reunion.

Upon a motion duly made by Peter Cusack and seconded by John Rizzo it was voted to: Accept the 1967 Reunion report.

Upon a motion duly made

by Anthony Varone and seconded by John Rizzo it was voted to: Grant the New England Chapter a gratuity of \$100 for a job well done.

President Keller then called upon William Meadows for a report on the 1968 Michigan Reunion. Bill announced that Robert DeSandy had been selected for the Chairmanship and that he, Bill Meadows, would be the Co-Chairman. The dates selected July 18, 19, and 20, the place--the Hotel Statler Hilton in Detroit, Mich. The rates of rooms etc. will be published in the Octofoil. The reduced rates at the hotel will prevail three days before and three days after the reunion for those who arrive early and stay over. Bill also stated that there will be free parking at the hotel with a slight charge for those using their cars during the reunion. Meadows concluded by telling the Board members that the Michigan Reunion Committee members are trying to hold the price, for the three days, around the \$15.00 mark. President Keller thanked Bill Meadows for his report.

A discussion of the future of the Octofoil was held. President Keller eulogized the late editor Paul Plunkett. He also thanked Walter O'Keeffe and Daniel Quinn for publishing the September-October issue of the Octofoil upon the death of Paul Plunkett.

Upon a motion duly made by Anthony Varone and seconded by Herbert Olsen it was voted to: Appoint Walter O'Keeffe and Daniel Quinn as Co-Editors of the Octofoil and they will be responsible for the issues due from this time to the July (1968) Board meeting.

President Keller read a letter from General Randle about the possibility of admitting new members into the association, that is men now serving with the Ninth in Viet Nam. After much discussion and upon a

Secretary - Bob Winkleman, Chaplain - Bud Remer. The officers need your support for the coming year, so don't forget to show up at the meetings. They have great plans for the coming year.

★ ★ ★

## Memorial Service at Worcester Draws Large Attendance

On November 5, 1967, eight hundred Ninth Division people gathered at Worcester, Mass. to join Father Edward Connors in his prayers for the departed members of the Division. Twenty-two years ago Father Connors returned to parish duties after having served for four years as a Chaplain with the Ninth Infantry Division. Many times, in Africa, Sicily, Normandy, and in Germany, Father Ed had been called upon to comfort soldiers in their last moments. These occasions made a lasting impression upon Father Ed and in his priestly way he vowed that the honored dead of the Ninth Division would never be forgotten.

In 1945 Father Connors contacted Ninth Division men who resided in the vicinity of Worcester and advised them of his intention to say a Memorial Mass for the deceased members of the Division. In November of that year, this small group assembled at Worcester and together with Father Connors they paid homage to the memory of fallen comrades. From this modest beginning the Memorial Service at Worcester has grown into the impressive spiritual and patriotic event that it is today.

On Sunday, November 5th, the Church of the Immaculate Conception was filled to capacity. The congregation contained men of all faiths and creeds, men joined together in a common purpose--to pray for their departed comrades. This year two Memorial Masses were said simultaneously; Father Jerry Rowan participated as a co-celebrant in the Mass with Father Connors. Father Rowan is a Ninth Division man who entered the Priesthood after his discharge from the Army; he had served with the Ninth M.P. Battalion. In his sermon Father Connors spoke of the sacrifices that had been made by the men of the Ninth Infantry

division made by John Rizzo and seconded by Richard Pestel it was voted to: Table the matter until the Spring (1968) meeting of the Board of Governors.

The Board members gave Dick Pestel a standing ovation for his work in making plaques (Ninth Division emblems) and presenting them to the Board members.

John Rizzo asked the members for a standing vote of thanks to the New England Chapter members for a wonderful reunion.

There being no further business to come before the members and upon a motion duly made by Herbert Olsen and seconded by Anthony Varone it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel Quinn  
National Secretary

## Stoddard Writes from Korea

Dear Members:

Greetings this time from Korea. I arrived on Oct. 21st. My assignment is with the AG Section 2nd Infantry Division. Thought you might enjoy the enclosed clipping about the 9th Division in Viet Nam. The 9th is still making history, so I anticipate extra chapters will have to be added to "Eight Stars to Victory."

Please continue to send the Octofoil to my address in North Carolina.

To all members of the 9th Division Association I send my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous, and Peaceful New Year.

Sheldon Stoddard (34th FA)  
HHC 2nd Inf. Div. APO SF 96224

Division, and he reminded the congregation that men were being called upon to make these same sacrifices today. Father Connors requested the congregation to remember General Westmoreland in their prayers, so that the Almighty would bless the General with health, strength, and fortitude required to bring his arduous task to a successful conclusion.

After the Memorial Mass the members of the Division assembled at the Ninth Division Monument which is located outside the Church on a gentle slope overlooking Gold Star Blvd. The City of Worcester has come to regard the Ninth Infantry Division Memorial Service as an important part of the city's Veterans Day program, and local dignitaries have always been present at the services. This year we were honored by the presence of The Honorable Harold D. Donough, Congressman, Fourth Cong. Dist., Mass., The Honorable Joseph C. Casdin, Mayor of the City of Worcester, and Mr. Frank J. McGrath, City Manager of The City of Worcester.

The distinguished guests spoke to the people assembled at the Monument and their discourses all stressed one basic theme--that services such as the Ninth Infantry Division Memorial Service remind the American people that the freedoms they enjoy today are theirs only because other Americans in other times were willing to die defending these freedoms. City Manager McGrath pointed out that the men who died in the waddies of North Africa, the hedgerows of Normandy, and the forests of Germany, died so that Americans could retain the right to speak freely on national issues. Mr. McGrath also stressed the fact that this freedom, the so called right to dissent, carries with it serious responsibilities and obligations. He said that those people who use the right as a license for anarchy are guilty of profaning the sacred memory of the men who died while

defending that right.

After the ceremonies were concluded at the Monument, the members of the Division drove to the Wachuset Country Club where a banquet was served. The atmosphere at the Club was one of camaraderie as old friends got together to talk over old times. The head table was occupied by many dignitaries. Among them was Bishop Flannagan, Bishop of Worcester. Father Connors acted as Toastmaster and he kept everyone in a happy frame of mind, he seemed to have a gift for everyone present in the dining room. At the end of the banquet the entire group rose to their feet and sang "God Bless America." When it came time to leave, everyone seemed reluctant to depart; however, we all promised that, the Good Lord willing, we would return to Worcester next November.

## ILLINOIS SESQUICENTENNIAL

The State of Illinois began December 4, 1967, with the anniversary of 150 years that we have joined the union. Illinois was the twenty-first state of the union. This will be a year long of celebration in the State of Illinois. An exhibition of Vignettes of history - 1818 to 1968 went on display in the Illinois State Museum at Springfield, Illinois. This exhibition will remain on view for the next three months. There will be many interesting programs for the whole year. Everybody is invited regardless of what state you are from. The hospitality in Illinois cannot be surpassed by any state in the union. I have had many inquiries from Ninth Division members as to why the Ninth Division Association will not have the reunion in Illinois on their 150th birthday. My answer was that they should write to the Board of Governors for the answer. I know Paul Keller, President of the Association, is a very fine man and he will fulfill his duties to the best of his knowledge.

Sincerely,  
Frank Ozart

### NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASS'N. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dan Quinn, Natl. Secretary, 9th Infantry Division Assn.,  
412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J.

Enclosed please find 1968 dues for:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

I was a member of:

Battery \_\_\_\_\_; Company \_\_\_\_\_; Regiment \_\_\_\_\_ 9th Div.

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member, per year \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 4.00 ☐

Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_ ☐

Three-Year Member \_\_\_\_\_ \$11.00 ☐

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 ☐

Octofoil Automobile License Disc \_\_\_\_\_ \$ .50 ☐

Decals 25c; (5) five for \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 1.00 ☐

"Eight Stars to Victory"  
(Pictorial History of 9th Division in action.) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 2.00 ☐

Ladies' Auxiliary Member \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 1.50 ☐

Combat Route Map \_\_\_\_\_ \$ .50 ☐

60th Infantry History \_\_\_\_\_ \$ .50 ☐

Coat Lapel Octofoil Pin \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 1.25 ☐

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Please give credit to the following Chapter:

Philly-Delaware Valley ☐ Greater New York ☐

Illinois ☐ Washington, D.C. ☐

New England ☐ Michigan ☐

Ohio ☐ Fayetteville-Fort Bragg, N.C. ☐

## Illinois Chapter Elects Officers

Illinois Chapter election of officers took place on November 17, 1967, at the Forest Park Moose Lodge. The following officers were elected. President - Mike Belmonte, Vice-President - Roger Elmer, Treasurer - Bill Hennemuth,



## Peter Becker Passes Away

LAKE RONKONKOMA - Peter N. Becker, 51, Med. Det. 60th Inf., a school food caterer, died Tuesday at his home, 25 Eastview Rd., after a brief illness. A solemn requiem mass will be offered at 9 a.m. Friday at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church here.

Mr. Becker and his wife, Lillian, were co-owners of Dietary Management Inc. serving the Knox School for Girls in Nissequoque and the Robin Hood Country Day School in Westbury. Mr. Becker had been in the business for 10 years.

He was a member of St. Joseph's Holy Name Society, the St. Regis Council, Knights of Columbus and the William Merritt Hallock Post No. 155, American Legion, all in Lake Ronkonkoma.

Mr. Becker's survivors include his widow; two sons, Peter H. and Michael A.; all of Lake Ronkonkoma; five brothers, Emil of Lake Ronkonkoma, William of Setauket, Theodore of South Merrick, Francis of Manhattan Beach, Calif. and Ambrose of the Bronx; and two sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Manitta of Centereach and Mrs. Theodora Grawrock of Blue Point.

Burial was in Long Island National Cemetery, Pinelawn. Note:

Andrew Appello of 8600 First Ave., North Bergen, N.J., formally with the 9th Recon., died October 21, 1967. He is survived by his wife Camille and daughter Jean Ann. Editor's Note: Both Peter and Andy were good members of the New York Chapter and will be missed by their many friends. God bless their families.

### Another Thank You

Gentlemen:

Now that I am settled in college and have thus far been successful in my work I would like to take the opportunity to thank the members of The Ninth Infantry Division Association and its Scholarship Com-

## BUSY WEEKEND IN NEW YORK

December has been a very busy month for the New York Chapter. On December 3rd the Chapter met and elected officers for 1968. Harry Orenstein, one of the Chapter's most willing workers was elected President.

Two days later the Chapter members held their annual Christmas party at the Elks Club in Union City, New Jersey. The group played host to about 100 children and for three hours their laughter filled the Elks Club. Santa had gifts for all the children and the

### Request for Space in Souvenir Program

Attached is copy for an ad in the color-printed 1968 Ninth Infantry Division Association Reunion Program.

Full page-----\$25  
Half page-----\$15  
Quarter page-----\$10  
One eighth page-----\$5  
Booster ads - \$1.00 - name and unit.  
Send all ad copy, checks and money orders to: Michigan Chapter % Leonard DeBell, 24248 Curie, Warren, Michigan 48091

## Al Giest Seeks Pics

Al Giest knows that many people took pictures during the Friday night dance at the Boston Reunion, but so far he has been unable to contact them. Al is anxious to receive prints or negatives that show him and Father Connors carrying the flag. Al will return the prints and negatives as soon as he has made copies of them. If you can help Al out, send the prints or negatives to Albert C. Giest, 11400 So. Millard Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60655.

★ ★ ★

mittee for the aid they have granted to me.

Sincerely yours,  
Alan J. Wax  
State University of  
New York at Stony  
Brook, L.I., N.Y.

members served hot dogs, ice cream, soda and sandwiches. Dom Miele provided entertainment in the form of a movie program, consisting of cartoons and Christmas Carols. Dom's program was a huge success and the children were glued to their seats all during the movie. The older boys and girls spent the day bowling and some mighty good scores were made by the young kellers.

All in all it was a mighty satisfying and enjoyable day.

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## WE MISSED THEM

While enjoying themselves at the Michigan Chapter Christmas party the gang took time out to phone the Quinns and we were disappointed that we were not at home when they called. Kathy Quinn spoke with John Bonkowski, Elmer Wagner, Dick Pestel, Jess Davis and out President Paul Keller. All sending their warmest regards and wishes for a Merry Christmas. Ma and Pa Quinn were attending a Christmas party at the local V.F.W. hall and were sorry to have missed the call. Dick Pestel, Jess Davis and Paul Keller had traveled up from Ohio to be guest at the Michigan Chapter party. We know that they had a "good time" for whenever two or more Ninth Division men get together an evening is complete.

## Doc Walton Reports

The Octofoil's most faithful correspondent in the Southland is Paul Walton. The old Doc seems to know every Ninth Division man in Georgia and Alabama. Paul not only keeps in touch with the old timers he also seeks out new members. As soon as Doc hears that a Ninth Division man is in the vicinity he gets on his trail, and like the Mounties, always gets his man. Right now he is tracking down a man from Cannon Co., 47th Inf. So far he has been unsuccessful; however, knowing Doc we are willing to bet that his quest will succeed.

In his latest letter, Doc reports that he has no news on the expected new arrival at the Walter Victor's, but he did report that Walter acquired some new cameras and is better equipped than ever to take those convention pictures for which he is famous. On a recent trip to Atlanta, Doc stopped in to see Col. Oscar Thompson. Doc reports that the Col. is well and wants to be remembered to all his friends. Paul is a very active member of the Rome American Post and unfortunately his Legion activities prevented him from attending the Memorial Services at Worcester.

Paul's letter was written on the first day of the deer season, and he said that he was going out and try to get himself a deer. If he is as handy with a rifle as he was with a hypo, there should be venison on the Walton's table, so if you are in Doc's neighborhood stop in. Maybe he will treat you to a venison steak.

## Who Named Old Reliably?

The Military History Detachment of the U.S. Army has come to the Octofoil for assistance. Recently while doing research on the Ninth Infantry Division, the History Detachment came across the nickname "Old Reliablys." Try as they might, they were unable to discover the origin of this nickname. They feel that some former member of the Division might have some information on this subject, and have requested that the Octofoil make an appeal for such information.

## RENAME "FLINT PARADE"



Col. Flint

Paddy Flint Field, located in the vicinity of 1st Street and Governor Harvey Canyon Road in the Camp Forsyth area of Fort Riley, has been renamed "Flint Parade."

The field was originally named for Colonel Harry A. (Paddy) Flint, commanding officer of the 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division during World War II. The field was dedicated in June 1966 while the 39th Inf., 9th Inf. Div. was at Fort Riley.

## Joe McKenzie Reports for the 26th F.A.

Gentlemen:

The men of the Ninth did it again. Ever since 1945 Ninth men have been making this annual trip to Worcester. Now the men are a little older, a little slower but not forgetful of their comrades of the years 1941 through 1945. More men than ever are attending our Memorial Mass. Most men have their wives in Worcester for the Mass. So if you have never attended our Memorial Mass, please try to do so before we get too old to travel. You will not be disappointed.

This year was one of the few when the weather man was not fully cooperative. On Saturday he gave us a sample of all weather he is capable of giving. You name it. We had it. It was different on Sunday. Sunshine in all its splendor plus a tinge of fall in the air combined to make a beautiful day.

Service Battery, 26FA had two men attending for the first time. I know that it was an occasion that they will never forget. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Leach from St. Albans, Vermont enjoyed the Mass and the gang for the first time. Sotarius Lembesis from nearby Woburn was also there for the first time. Others from Service Battery included Manny Effron, Jerry Langer, Elmer Roscoe, John Murray, Clem LeBlanc, Lew Orticiari, Joe Albanese, Bill Bongiorno and Perigi.

Attendance by members of other units is increasing. Why is it that we cannot have a story from those groups scattered throughout the Coffee Shop and at dinner table?

The Mass, the reason for our being in Worcester, becomes more beautiful and more meaningful as the years go by. Fr. Connors, ably assisted by Fr. Rowan, the choir, joined by the congregation, the Honor Guard and the simplicity of the service as a great demonstration in remembrance of those who made the supreme sacrifice.

Southern Hospitality is something may of us have read about. Some of us enjoyed it while stationed at Ft. Bragg. Others have had a sample of it while on Carolina maneuvers during the fall of 1941. None of it can compare with the hospitality shown us by the good people at Immaculate. Their gracious manner and generous display of culinary arts made

Saturday night a memorable one. A sincere "THANK YOU" from us to the good men and women at Immaculate.

A touching tribute which is a part of our weekend in Worcester is the outdoor ceremony at our memorial. The sight of Old Glory at half staff, being whipped by a chilled New England breeze, and although we are getting old and bent, makes us stand straight as we did during our days at Bragg. A few short speeches by elected officials of the City of Worcester, the president of our Association, Fr. Connors, any former officer of the division who might be present, prayers by Fr. Rowan and the sounding of taps conclude the memorial service.

At approximately 12:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, 500 people more or less, sit for dinner. They are hungry although one hour before, each of them devoured 2 cups of coffee and one or more delicious doughnuts. The Connors menu as always calls for chicken but chicken is never served. A cut of beef deliciously done, satisfies our appetites for the day. About 3:00 p.m. festivities are over and the gang departs for Columbus, Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, New York and other cities too numerous to mention.

So if you have not been to a Memorial Mass why not plan to be in Worcester during November of 1968?

Prior to our convention in Boston this past summer I wrote many letters trying to locate men of the 34FA for Carl Ward, Reidsville, N.C. I was successful in locating about 14 former members for him. Some of these men I called by phone but none of them knew Carl. When Carl arrived in Boston I found out why he was a stranger to men of the 34th. Sheldon Stoddard who was a 34th man and who made the army a career told me in Boston that he gave the names to Carl. Sheldon should have retired after his trip to Boston because the army decided to send him on another cruise. His address is now Headquarters Company, 2nd Inf. Div. Camp Honze, Korea. Honest Sheldon, I had nothing to do with the transfer.

Sincerely,  
Joe McKenzie  
95 Washington Avenue  
Waltham, Mass.



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## Quatermaster Notes

CONGRATULATIONS DEPT.

Received a letter from Floyd Hennessey that he and his wife are grandparents. Also, that his son, Paul, has returned from Vietnam.

Joe D'Antuono has joined the 9th Division Association.

Mrs. A. Milano won a prize at the dinner.

About 25 years ago Andrew Milano and Joe Russo were on the advanced detail that was to make the African invasion.

The September-October 1967 OCTOFOIL issue has published the 1968 reunion dates and hotel. Here they are:

JULY 18, 19, and 20

STATLER HILTON HOTEL  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Here is Robert Elmes new address:

P.O. Box 1915

Blasdel, New York

The following men, women and children were present:

Joe D'Antuono, Harry Orenstein, John Jagling and his wife, Ray Miele and his wife, Andrew Milano and his wife, Richard Robbins and his son John, Joe Russo and his wife, George Swanson, his wife and daughter Margaret, Irvin Taylor and his wife.

## THE MEMORIAL FUND OF THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION Scholarship Information

The Memorial Fund of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was established by the members of the association to commemorate the memory of their comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice in battle. As a part of this fund the association established a scholarship program. Scholarships are awarded each year to relatives of men who served in The Ninth Infantry Division. Each scholarship is for one year.

### ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

A person who wishes to apply for a scholarship must be related to a man who served with The Ninth Infantry Division. Children of former members of the division will be given first consideration, but children of men killed in combat given first preference. Applicants who are not children of former members of the division will not be considered unless no child of a former member qualifies.

### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The following procedures must be followed by those wishing to apply for the scholarships:

1. Send a letter of application, written in expository form, to the chairman of the scholarship committee stating the following: name, address, age, and sex of the applicant; name, address, and occupation of the applicant's parents or guardians; the name and address of the secondary school the applicant is attending or has attended and graduated; the name and address of the college the applicant expects to attend; the vocational goal of the applicant; and the name of and degree of relationship to a former member of the division. The unit and dates of service in the division of the former member must be included.
2. A transcript of the applicant's high school record must be included with the letter of application. The transcript must include at least the first seven semesters of the applicant's record.
3. The applicant must have a counselor or principal of the high school he or she is attending write a letter of recommendation to the chairman of the scholarship committee.
4. The applicant must take the PSAT which is given every October. The applicant must see that the results of the PSAT are sent to the chairman of the scholarship committee. These results may be included with the high school transcript or sent to the chairman from the College Entrance Examination Board. The SAT of the CEEB may be submitted in lieu of the PSAT. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SENT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE BY MARCH 15. Applications received after March 15 will not be considered.
5. All applicants must accept the decision of the Scholarship Committee as final.
6. Information to determine financial need will be requested by the Scholarship Committee after the applications have been considered.
7. Recipients of the scholarships may apply for renewal of the scholarship each year. A copy of the student's college grades, a financial statement, and a letter requesting renewal of the scholarship should be sent to the chairman by March 15.
8. All applications must be sent to: John J. Clouser, Scholarship Chairman, Ninth Infantry Division Association, 901 Graceland St., Des Plaines, Illinois 60018.

## Charlie Titus Recalls

Dear Dan:

I am enclosing my dues for 68 and I feel that all the Octofoil readers like myself will always remember and appreciate the great job that was done by Paul Plunkett. I wish you and Walter O'Keeffe much success in the future.

Last Nov. 8th was twenty-five years since the 9th landed in Africa. It's sure sign that old man time is beginning to catch up with all of us, but it still is very easy to recall that day without straining the memory very much. Everything from the weather to the butterflies in the stomach can be remembered like it was a few yesterdays ago. Being an old 47th man, I can also recall that long march from Safi to the cork forest, as a matter of fact my feet hurt when I think of it. But today when I think of the 9th it's not the hardships I think of - it's the good guys I knew as friends and comrades. They were the guys that made the tough days seem much easier. Hope that you and all members of the 9th Division Association have a very good year in 1968.

Charlie Titus (47th Inf.)  
6119 N. Lawrence St., Philadelphia, Pa.

## George Berday Suffers Attack

Mrs. Berday writes that her husband George, formerly with the 47th Infantry, suffered a heart attack on November 28th. Parts from her letter are as follows: My husband was placed in intensive care but thank God they moved him out and into Ward 28, Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, D.C., and will be there about another 3 or 4 weeks, then at home. I know he would appreciate receiving get well cards and little notes. Anything to cheer him up. (Editor's note: How's about you men living in the D.C. area stopping by to visit George. He lives at 5120-4th Street NE, Washington, D.C.)

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### Remember the Dates

Remember the dates for the 1968 Reunion - July 18, 19, 20.

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP in the LADIES' AUXILIARY of the NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Tippi Plunkett, Secretary-Treasurer  
Ninth Infantry Division Association Ladies' Auxiliary  
286 Zimpfer St., Columbus, Ohio 43206

I would like to become a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Enclosed is check or money order for \$1.50 for 1968 dues. Please mail my membership card to—

Name .....

Street .....

City ..... State .....

While attached to the 9th Infantry Division my (state relationship, whether the Ninth Division man was a husband, father, brother, son, etc.)

was with .....  
give company, regiment, battery, attached unit, etc.)

Make checks or money orders payable to Ninth Infantry Division Association. Mail to Secretary-Treasurer Tippi Plunkett, 286 Zimpfer St., Columbus, Ohio 43206. A 1968 countersigned membership card will be sent immediately.

By order of the President:

MRS. THERESA CUPRYS, President.

JOHN J. CLOUSER  
901 GRACELAND STREET  
DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS  
60016



Members of the Boston Chapter celebrating a successful reunion at Pete Cusack's home L to R. Ronnie Murphy, Connie Matulis, Mr. and Mrs. Ed McGrath, Tom Boyle, Larry McLaughlin, Joe McKenzie, Fred D'Amore.

## From G Co. 47th Inf.

Dear Dan:

My purpose in writing is twofold. First of all, I send sincerest and heartiest congratulations to you and Walter O'Keeffe on the excellent editorial job done with the September Octofoil issue of the Octofoil. Succeeding the late Paul Plunkett in this editorial assignment is a job and an undertaking not to be envied by anyone, but you fellows have come through with flying colors. Keep up the good work.

Secondly, I would appreciate receiving Jim Leopold's home address in Highland Park, Illinois, whenever you have an opportunity to look it up.

Still hopeful of getting in to a New York Chapter meeting one of these months. It seems

that each such meeting date I am out of state on company business somewhere. Will, however, be headquartered at our New York office in the near future so I am bound to be in the city on one occasional first Friday at least.

Kindest personal regards to you and your family. Again, sincerest congratulations to you and Walter O'Keeffe on a superb editorial job. You filled a most difficult pair of shoes in a most competent manner.

Martin Gill  
2401 Pennington Road  
Trenton, New Jersey

Editor's Note: The secretary's office was able to furnish Jim Leopold's address and did so promptly. Jim and Marty were two "ole G Co. men."

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Pictured at this year's Memorial Service in Worcester are Gold Star parents Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Olsen and Father Connors. They are shown standing at the Memorial.

The Olsens hail from Randolph, Mass. and their sons, Gerry and Herb, served with G Co 47th Inf. Gerald was killed Aug. 9, 1944.

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## Brianyk Sends Regrets

Anthony Brianyk, 36 Pine Avenue, West Long Branch, N.J., a P.O.W. since North Africa writes: Dear Dan: It was with sadness when I read of the death of Mr. Paul Plunkett. Men of his caliber don't come along every day. But you were fortunate to have known him personally for many years. The passing of such men leaves a deep void in our lives. Men such as he inspire the rest of us to lead better lives and what better epitaph can they leave us.

As for me, I'm enjoying fair health. Been two years now that I am medically disabled. Where does the time go?

In the new issue of the Octofoil I seen an article concerning ex-POW that Mr. Kirker Sr. has initiated a program concerning ex-POW for confinement pay. Naturally I am interested. Won't you please, by return mail give me his address?

My best to you and yours, Anthony Brianyk (47th Inf.) Ed. Note: We could not supply the address of Mr. Kirker but gave Tony a few leads to go on and he is following them. We wish him luck.

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Remember the dates for the 1968 Reunion - July 18, 19, 20.

## Service Battery Ramblings

Bill Andrews, Earl Landon, Bill Bongiorno, John Murray, Jim Newton, John Quinn -- attended our Convention in Boston this summer. The old boys do look good. Landon visited Glen Cline in Royal Oak but the Cline family was not at home.

The last addition to the Jimmy Boyle family is now about two years old. Seymour is still very sick. Send him a note - he needs it. Bill Bongiorno went to North Carolina for his vacation. His mother died last February. This past summer I saw Joe Albanese. He is enjoying the best of health. Lew Orticari was not at home when I stopped at his home. Before I left Vermont I was able to reach him by phone. Lew has no complaints to make. I called Arnold Leach, but he was working. His wife said everything is fine in St. Albans. Philip Huber has been awarded a scholarship by our association. He plans to attend Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio.

During the year letters were received from Bolow, Lareau, and Mosier. The old boys say that they are in the best of health. Joe Mosier works two jobs. Joe Bolow works for Monsanto Chemical in Springfield. Bernal travels Texas for an insurance company. Louie England has a boy in the Army stationed in Germany. Mrs. John Murray is much better after months of serious sickness.

Harold Wallace called me from Houston. If he had not given me his name I would have recognized his voice the instant he started to talk. No change in the Tennessee accent. Last June Harold was kind enough to meet my sister at the airport and drive her to where she was staying en route to Texas A&M. Bernal Lareau, also living in Houston, invited my sister to his home for dinner. Thank you, men, for those kind deeds.

Those of us who were at Ft. Bragg during 1941 and who remember Joe Bibeau and Walter Janik will be sorry to hear that Joe died in Dec. 1955 and Walter in July 1965. Service Battery Ramblings--CHANGE YOUR RECORDS TO READ:

Joseph J. Bolow, R.F.D. #2, Palmer, Mass. 01069  
Paul R. Fribush, 3903 Chaffey Rd., Randallstown, Maryland, 21133

Earl Landon, 503 E. University, Royal Oak, Michigan  
Clement S. LeBlanc, 776 Hale St., Beverly Farms, Mass. 01915

Edward Ianetti--"moved" says the Post Office



TALENTED YOUNG LADY

This summer proved to be a lucky one for Theresa Soprano, 14, daughter of Tony and Verna Soprano of the Philadelphia Valley Chapter. Theresa won 1st prize, which was a portable record player, from Singer Sewing School of Chester, Penna. District, and came in 2nd for the sub-deb division of the Eastern Region in Philadelphia, Pa.

Theresa made the navy blue and white wool coat and dress ensemble she is modeling.

Dad was with the 15th Engineers - Co. A.

## "Best Yet"

One of the largest audiences of men, women, and children of the 9th Infantry Division Association heard Father Connors deliver the 23rd Annual Memorial Services on Sunday, Nov. 5, 1967. All faiths were invited to attend. Father Connors gave a brief history of the 9th Division route from Africa to Germany. He said that 4581 men of the 9th Division made the supreme sacrifice. We should pray for peace. We should pray for the deceased. Father Connors read a telegram that he received from General Westmoreland in Vietnam.

After the Memorial Mass, services were held at the 9th Division Shrine. There were speeches from the following: Father Connors, City Manager McGrath, Mayor Casdin and Congressman Donohue. City Manager McGrath said that the 9th Division in WW II had ideals they were fighting for; and 4581 men of the 9th Division made the supreme sacrifice for those ideals, the democratic way of life. He compared the events of 25 years ago with today. He said the men in Vietnam are fighting for the same principals that the 9th Division of WW II were fighting for with the demonstrations of the dissenters here.

After the services at the 9th Division Shrine, we travelled to the Wachusett Country Club for dinner. The large audience listened to an interesting program. We applauded and cheered when the speakers told humorous stories. The entertainment by the band was appreciated.

Father Connors received a plaque from the City of Worcester for the excellent work that he is doing for the city. Father Connors received another plaque from Dick Pestel. Mrs. Tippi Plunkett wife of the late editor Paul Plunkett, received a picture of her husband. Father Connors said that your husband was a dedicated worker; and due to your husband's effort he kept the Association alive more than anyone else.

Father Connors announced at the dinner that he would have a new building for his affair next year to accommodate the increasing attendance of men, women and children.

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The above story was sent to us by Harry Orenstein our reporter for the 9th Q.M.

### SORRY ABOUT THAT

Because of limited space the story by Bill Kreye - "The Pawns of War" was omitted from this issue but will be continued in the next issue.

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## Gold Star Parents Called Away

From time to time it is very saddening to receive from Uncle Sam's post office department a return piece of paper, clipped from the Octofoil, marked undeliverable - "Deceased." Such was the case recently from Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Mowere, 1543 Linden St., Sidney, Nebraska. Perhaps there were no next of kin to write to the Octofoil. May they rest in peace.

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